

中国的世界文化和自然遗产



THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE SITES IN CHINA

文化部中华文化信息网  
浙江摄影出版社 编

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电脑制作:朱爱民

#### 图书出版编目(CIP)数据

中国的世界文化和自然遗产/文化部中华文化信息网、  
浙江摄影出版社编. —杭州:浙江摄影出版社, 2002.8  
ISBN 7-80536-937-2

I.中... II.①文... ②浙... III.①名胜古迹—中  
国—图集②文化遗址—中国—图集 IV.K928.7-64

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2002)第038929号

## 中国的世界文化和自然遗产

文化部中华文化信息网 编  
浙江摄影出版社

浙江摄影出版社出版发行  
(杭州市武林路125号 邮编:310006)  
经销:全国新华书店  
制版:深圳利丰雅高电分制版有限公司  
印刷:深圳利丰雅高印刷有限公司  
开本:889×1194 1/16  
字数:620千字  
印张:20.25  
印数:1-2000  
2002年8月第1版  
2002年8月第1次印刷  
ISBN 7-80536-937-2/K·44  
定价:198.00元

(如有印、装质量问题,请寄本社出版室调换)



封面题字：孙家正

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全景视拓图片有限公司

人民画报社

英文翻译：彭树明

中国的  
世界文化和自然遗产

徐家心



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\* 遗产地名中、英文来源：中国联合国教科文组织全国委员会：  
<http://www.unesco.org>

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# 序

2001年3月12日，阿富汗塔利班领导人一声令下，已屹立1500年的世界佛教圣地巴米扬大佛，在弥漫的硝烟中化为碎石——全世界的报纸、电视、广播和网站都发布了这条消息。尽管在此以前，人类的良知曾多少次呼吁停止这种非理性行为，但是悲剧还是发生了。

回顾上一个世纪两次世界大战和许多地区性战争，世界上许多具有重要历史文化意义或自然价值的人类遗产，也都遭到了令人痛心的破坏，巴米扬大佛的被毁，只不过是最近的一个突出例子而已。不但是战争，事实上，现代化的建设，有时也促成人类遗产的加速消亡。从上世纪五六十年代开始，人们惊异地发现，已经失去或遗忘了太多的东西：人情味、精神需求、文化传统、艺术性、民族特征或乡土意识……这些曾代表着“美好”的观念，很大程度上已经被冷落了，而被某种纯技术观念和片面的“现代化”所取代。人们认识到，必须重新认识和肯定各民族各地域文化特性，保护环境，保护生物的多样性，让那些充满魅力的生活环境再生的时代来临。1972年，在联合国教科文组织的倡导下，各国达成协议，订立了《保护世界文化和自然遗产公约》，要协力保护人类的共同遗产。中国1985年成为缔约国，自此以后，中国就不断向联合国申报自己的“世界遗产”。到目前为止，已有28项申报成功，其中21项为“世界文化遗产”、3项为“世界自然遗产”、4项为“世界文化与自然双重遗产”。

中华文明五千年一脉相承，国土辽阔，民族众多，文化独具特色，成就辉煌，自然景观丰富多样，中国的文化与自然遗产在世界上具有独特而骄人的地位。

例如，第一批申报成功的北京故宫，在世界文化史上就占有崇高的地位。英国著名学者李约瑟在他的巨著《中国的科学与文明》中谈到故宫时就说过：“我们发觉了一系列区分起来的空间，其间又是互相贯通的。……中国的观念是十分深远和极为复杂的，因为在一个构图中有数以百计的建筑物，而宫殿本身只不过是整个城市连同它的城墙街道等更大的有机体的一个部分而已。……中国的观念同时也显出极为微妙和千变万化，它注入了一种融会了的趣味。”他认为以北京故宫为代表的中国伟大建筑的整体形式，已经成为“任何文化未能超越的有机的图案”。北京故宫在东方世界曾起过很大作用，越南阮朝故都顺化的“紫禁城”、朝鲜李朝汉城的景福宫，都是直接在北京故宫的影响下建造的。

中国园林在世界上同样享有崇高的地位，已被列入“世界遗产”的苏州园林、北京颐和园、承德避暑山庄是其最优秀的代表。唐、宋时中国园林艺术就已相继传入日本，对日本园林产生过直接影响，从17世纪开始被介绍到欧洲，在英国、法国和其他国家引起轰动，被誉为世界园林之母。1685年，英国学者坦伯尔针对欧洲那种“强迫自然接受匀称的法则”的几何式园林写道：“还可以有另外一种完全不规则的花园，它们可能比任何其他形式的都更美；不过，它们所在的地段必须有非常好的自然条件，同时，又需要一个在人工修饰方面富有想像力和判断力的伟大民族。”他承认这种园林是“从在中国住过的人那儿听来的。中国人运用极其丰富的想像力来造成十分美丽夺目的形象，但是，不用那种肤浅地就看得出来的规则和配置各部分的方法”。随着欣赏和赞叹，紧接着便是模仿，先从英国开始，然后是法国和其他欧洲国家，园中往往还要造起一些多少有点像是中国式的塔、亭和楼阁，甚至还有孔庙。但此后不久，欧洲人就发现要造起一座达到真正中国园林那样水平的作品是多么困难。曾任英国皇家总建筑师的钱伯

斯就承认：“中国人的花园布局是杰出的，他们在那上面表现出来的趣味，是英国长期追求而没有达到的。……布置中国式花园的艺术是极其困难的，对于智能平平的人来说几乎是完全办不到的。……在中国，造园是一种专门的职业，需要广博的才能，只有很少的人才能达到化境。”

放眼望去，无论是展现了古人独具特色的规划观念的古代城市，体现古人天人合一哲理思想的坛庙，与宗教理念有关、贯穿了多少艺术才智的佛寺、佛塔、道观和石窟，表现古人慎终追远思想和环境理念的陵墓，以及散发着浓郁的民族和地方风情、芬芳气息的各地民居和村落，记录了人类历史发展轨迹的各类文化遗址，还有那瑰丽的锦绣河山：华北的沉实、江南的婉丽、西陲的雄奇……莫不具有宝贵的文化和自然遗产价值。以中国之广大，历史之悠久，民族之众多，文化之优秀，成就之突出，说中国可以列入“世界遗产名录”的项目理应为世界第一，至少可以占到全部1/6或1/5的比重，自信当毫不为过。

但事实却并不尽如人意。目前，全世界共有124个国家的721项文化和自然遗产进入名录，中国虽位列第三，却连1/25也没有达到。

当然这有一些客观上的原因，而根本的原因则在于观念。先不说1972年在巴黎通过《保护世界文化和自然遗产公约》时，我们的宝贵遗产却正遭受着“文革”的破坏，蒙受着“封、资、修”的奇冤，要迟到13年以后，我们才成为公约的缔约国，就是在这一段特殊时期之前或之后，我们对遗产的认识也还是很不够的。

例如，有着3000年建城历史和800多年都城历史，作为辽、金、元、明、清都城和中华人民共和国首都的北京，曾拥有过不愧为世界文化遗产的首选资格。先师梁思成先生在1951年写的《北京——都市计划的无比杰作》中说道：“北京是中国（可能是全世界）文物建筑最多的城市。”“北京建筑的整个体系是全世界保存得最完好、而且继续有传统有活力的、最特殊、最珍贵的艺术杰作。”当代英国人爱孟德·培根在其《城市的设计》中也承认：“也许在地球表面上人类最伟大的单项作品就是北京了，这座中国的城市是设计作为皇帝的居处，意在设计成举世的中心的标志。……在设计上它是如此辉煌出色，对今日的城市来说，它还是提供丰富设计意念的一个源泉。”然而仅只过去了50年，北京却未能与开罗、罗马、巴黎等世界名城一样，进入“世界遗产”名录，而且因为每个项目几乎只有一次的申报机会，事实上可能已永远失去了这样的资格。其原因就在于眼前的北京已不符合《公约》定义的“世界遗产”应该“保持遗产的真实性和完整性”的核心条件了。

已有2500多年建城历史且城址一直未变，曾享有“东方威尼斯”称誉的美丽的苏州，也与“世界遗产”的称号失之交臂。原因是近年为了改善城市交通，苏州被拦腰插进了一条现代化宽广大道，破坏了古老的城市格局和水乡城市风貌。

由于我们认识的滞后，经过几十年的建设，我们已“好心”地损坏了多少珍贵的遗产！按照《公约》的标准，全国市级以上城市，可能已没有一个再能够拥有这个资格了，但中国却是世界上最早重视城市规划而且最富有自己特色的国家之一。早在公元前11世纪西周洛邑王城营建时，周公和召公绘制的王城

规划图，就是中国也是世界现知最早的城市规划图。成书于公元前5世纪春秋末叶的《考工记》，对它的严整而富于文化深度的规划格局有着具体的追述。洛邑王城当然早就不存在了，北京和苏州可仍有着她的影子。

值得庆幸的是，我们仍有两座古城列入了《世界遗产名录》，那就是山西平遥和云南丽江。这多少带着一些偶然性：只因为前者当初的行政建制只是一座小镇，后者则地处偏远，从而都得以“幸免”于“现代化”之难。

我们当然要进行现代化建设，也绝不会只为了“保持遗产的真实性和完整性”而停止发展，说保护与发展是绝对矛盾的，实际上是认识的误区。历史遗迹当然不可能全部都保存下来，我们国家的保护方针是“重点保护”，就是通过论证，把最重要的最应该保护的保留起来。如果某些历史文化地域与现代化建设发生了矛盾，那就要慎重分析，必要时应该采取避让的办法。巴黎、罗马都是历史久远特别有价值的古城，我有幸到那里访问过，老城区都得到了妥善而严格的保护，另在古城附近发展新区，巴黎的叫“德方斯”，罗马的称“新罗马”。现在，平遥和丽江也采取了这种办法，保护与发展都获得了极好的效果。那种不分青红皂白借口发展而任意破坏遗产的行为，应该受到全民的共责。

国家文物局最近指出，中国历史文化遗产保护工作形势严峻，许多历史文化遗产和历史文化名城的古老空间特色与文化环境遭到破坏；在城市现代化和乡镇城市化的过程中，城市面貌日趋千篇一律，而这种单一面貌的文化正在吞噬以历史城镇、历史街区、古老建筑为标志的城市特色和民族文化特色。

幸而，总的发展趋势还是令人怀着希望的，在这个过程中，“世界遗产”的申报工作无疑起到了重要的推动作用。

例如，都江堰—青城山的申报就促使了当地政府和群众下决心整治环境：核心景区内的农户和居民全部外迁；景区内不能有与自然景观不协调的建筑；在都江堰主体工程和附属工程之中及其周边环境，不能有与遗产无关的建筑；主要路段露明电线统统下地；景区周围停止采矿。他们作出了重大牺牲，在不到5个月的时间内投入资金2亿多，拆除建筑28万余平方米；拆迁和关闭工、矿、商单位61家、学校1所、住宅1097户，加上其他措施，为都江堰—青城山成功列入《世界遗产名录》提供了强有力的保障。

武夷山为了申报成功，投入资金1亿多，拆除了各种破坏景观的建筑。承德为了避暑山庄列入《世界遗产名录》也拆除过上万间新建筑。我们还知道，江南古镇周庄，正准备与同里和乌镇一起积极申报以“江南水乡古镇”为名的“世界遗产”，最近也决定停止修筑穿过全镇的公路，人们称此举为“壮士断腕”，实不为过。

这样的牺牲似乎太大，但《公约》对“真实性和完整性”的规定掌握得十分严格，不如此不足以达标。据说西班牙一条被普遍看好的建于公元1世纪的古老水道，只因为其中原为石砌的一小段被改成了混凝土的，在申报时就遭到了质疑。而一旦申报成功，就等于马上获得了一份无形资产，立即身价百倍，单从经济角度来说，也还是值得的。如平遥古城在列入《世界遗产名录》后，仅旅游一项的年收入就从

18万元跃升至100多万元。何况更主要的是，这对提高全民文化和道德素质，提升国家声誉，都具有不可估量的价值。

所以，我们还要作更多努力，创造条件，争取在每年一次的申报中多通过几项，最终达到项目数世界第一的目标。

根据《公约》的规定，“世界遗产”的称号不实行终身制，联合国将经常对被列入名录的项目实行监测，不能通过监测就可能被列入“濒危世界遗产”名单，甚至被撤销“世界遗产”的资格，这可是国家的耻辱。美国黄石国家公园和柬埔寨吴哥窟就因保护不力而遭到了“黄牌”警告。

所以，随着申报的成功，知名度的提高，旅游业的发展，新的情况又会出现，在此要特别提出警惕的是旅游的过度开发等短期行为的出现。1998年联合国考察组向教科文组织和中国政府提交了一份考察报告，“对武陵源的旅游业基础在1992年评估后的发展速度十分震惊”，认为“武陵源现在是一个旅游设施泛滥的世界遗产景区”，这些设施“对景区的美学质量造成了相当大的影响”。报告对“将道路和旅馆糟糕地定位于河边，将河床挤在极窄的地方”给予了严厉批评。这一报告，引起了当地政府的重视，武陵源整改方案已经出台，将分三个阶段在5年内拆除核心景区内近9万平方米的新建筑，还有包括居民住房在内的其他旧房近34万平方米，迁移9000多居民下山，耗资至少3亿多元。

一个现代国家，一个现代人，理应具有现代的观念，保护文化的多样性、保护环境、保护物种的多样化，都是现代人应该具有的基本素质，这一点，相信必将日益深入人心。

放在读者面前的这本图册，是中华文化信息网和浙江摄影出版社合作出版的，展现了现已列入《世界遗产名录》的中国全部28项遗产全貌。书中有大量精美的图片，也有言简意赅的说明文字，概括介绍了世界遗产委员会对这些项目的评价、遗产概况、人文和自然价值及文化特色等，一册在手，好似畅游全国。这本书的出版，对于提高全民素质，加深我们热爱祖国的感情，向国外朋友介绍我们伟大的祖国，具有重要意义。对于加强文化和自然遗产的保护工作，促进旅游业的健康发展，也会起到重要的宣传作用。同时，对美术、摄影、建筑历史研究工作者和广大青年朋友，相信也会有很大的参考价值。

中华文化信息网(www.ccnt.com.cn)是文化部主管的一个行业性、权威性政府网站，多年来致力于弘扬中华民族的灿烂文化，沟通文化信息，既强调普及性又强调学术性，做了很多工作；浙江摄影出版社也是全国著名的出版社，由他们联手推出的这一本书，相信会是值得信任的。

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# Preface

On March 12, 2001, the world-famous Buddhist sacred relic, Bamiyan Buddha, which has stood for 1 500 years, was completely destroyed by the Taliban authorities. This news became the headlines in the newspapers, televisions, broadcast and websites all across the world in the spring of 2001. Although people of conscience had made an urgent, repeated appeal for stopping such an irrational act, the act did happen.

In retrospect of the two world wars and many regional conflicts during the past century, a lot of world heritage of great historical and cultural significance or of natural value have been deplorably destroyed. The destruction of Bamiyan Buddha is just one of the extraordinary cases that have happened in recent years. Virtually, not only wars but also modern construction give rise to the accelerated extinction of human heritage. Since the 1950s and 1960s, it has been surprisingly discovered that much has been lost or forgotten, for instance, human kindness, needs for intellectual life, and things of cultural, artistic, national or native values. Some wonderful ideas or concepts embodied in these things have been ignored to a great extent. They have been replaced by certain purely technical concepts or fashionable modern practice. People have now begun to realize that the time has come for us to re-recognize and reaffirm the cultural characteristics of all nations and all regions, protect the environment and the diversity of living things so as to herald the rebirth of a new era with a charming and appealing living environment. Under the initiative of UNESCO in 1972, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was signed by States Parties in a coordinated effort to protect the common heritage of human beings. In 1985, China signed the Convention and has since then persistently endeavored to make her national heritage be included on the list of the world heritage. So far, there have been 28 world heritage properties from China, including 21 cultural heritage properties, 3 natural heritage properties, and 4 mixed heritage properties.

The Chinese civilization has come down in one continuous line for 5 000 years. China enjoys a vast territory, various ethnic groups, a unique culture with brilliant achievements, and abundant resources of natural landscapes. Her cultural and natural heritage maintains a unique and outstanding position in the world.

Among the properties included on the World Heritage List in the first batch, Palace Museum in Beijing retains a noble reputation in the history of world culture. In his monumental work *Science and Civilisation in China*, Joseph Needham, a famous British scholar, commented: "We have perceived a series of separated spaces which are interlinked... The Chinese concepts are profound and exceedingly complicated. In one composition there are hundreds of buildings and the palaces themselves are just only an integral part of the entire city that is also linked with the city walls and other buildings... The delicacy and variations of Chinese concepts are also injected with mixed tastes." He maintained that the grandeur Chinese buildings represented by Beijing Palaces were the unparalleled integral designs of the world. Beijing Palaces once played a very important role in the Eastern world. The "Citadel" in Hue, ancient capital of Nguyen Dynasty

of Vietnam, and Kyongbok Palace in Seoul, South Korea, were constructed under the influence of the Beijing Palace.

Chinese gardens enjoy the equal noble position in the world. Suzhou gardens, Beijing's Summer Palace and Chengde's Summer Mountain Resort are the outstanding representatives of the Chinese gardens which have been listed on the World Heritage List. In the Tang and Song Dynasties, Chinese gardens were introduced into Japan so that they exerted a direct influence on Japanese gardens; and in the 17th century, they had been introduced into Europe where they caused a great sensation throughout Britain, France and other countries and were crowned as the Mother of Gardens. In 1685, about European geometric gardens which emphasized the rule of symmetry, William Temple, a British scholar, wrote this way: "There can be another kind of garden that is totally irregular and superbly beautiful. However, they could only be located in areas with very good natural conditions and also a soaring imagination and profound judgement of a great nation are needed in the artificial decoration of the garden." He admitted that he heard of the gardens from those once inhabiting in China. The Chinese created spectacular images with their rich imagination instead of employing superficial rules or the other means to arrange all parts. The Chinese gardens were appreciated and praised in the European countries and then imitated first in England, then France and many other countries. They would even also build some China-like pagodas, pavilions, towers and even Confucian temples. But soon the Europeans found how difficult it was to construct a genuine Chinese garden. The former British Royal Architect General, Mr. Chambers said; the Chinese had unparalleled talents in garden planning; and the interests and sentiment they demonstrated in this way had always remained the desired abilities for the British. Designing a Chinese garden requires highly remarkable artistic talents and would be impossible for common people. In China, constructing gardens is an occupation that demands extensive knowledge. There are few who can be perfect in this field.

As we look around, we can see that the ancient cities, which exhibit the features of our ancestors' conception of layout, are unique; the altars and temples, which reflect the philosophy of the correlation between man and nature, are harmonious; the Buddhist monasteries, pagodas, Taoist temples, and the grottos, which have relationship with the religious ideal, are full of arts and wisdom; the mausoleums, which inspire the ancestors with the memory of the old and recall of the environmental conception, are pensive; the houses and villages, which smell a fragrant scent of local romance of each ethnic group and each locality, are emanational; the sites of ancient cultural relics, which record the development of human history, are marvelous; and the manifold landscape, which features the ruggedness of the north, the beautifulness of the south, the majesticness of the west and the nobleness of the northeast, are of great cultural and natural heritage value. As China is a large country with a long history, various ethnic groups, splendid culture and outstanding achievements, I am convinced that China is the country that should have the maximum amount of properties to be included on the World Heritage List and can at least



account for 1/6 or 1/5 of the total number of World Heritage sites.

But the fact is not quite as we expect. By now there have been totally 721 properties in 124 States Parties which the World Heritage Committee has inscribed on the World Heritage List. The number of the World Heritage Sites from China ranks third, but accounts for only 1/25 of the total.

For that some objective causes can be cited, but the ultimate cause lies in our notion. When the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted in Paris in 1972, our precious heritage was, however, suffering “the Cultural Revolution”, treated unfairly as the token of the “feudalism, capitalism and revisionism”. Even when we became a State Party of the Convention 13 years after, we still did not have much awareness about our heritage.

For example, Beijing, a 3 000-year-old city with a history of more than 800 years as the capital of the Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties and the People’s Republic of China respectively, was once the most eligible candidate for its world cultural heritage. In 1951, my mentor Liang Sicheng wrote in his *Beijing—Matchless Masterpiece of City Planning*: Beijing possesses the most cultural and historic constructions in China (probably in the whole world); and the whole construction system of Beijing has been kept as the most intact, traditional, vigorous, special and precious masterpiece. The contemporary British Edmond Bacon also commented in his *City Design*: Beijing was perhaps the greatest man-made project on earth, and it was designed for the emperor’s residence, intending to become the center of the world; and its design was so glorious and outstanding that it was still an inspiration for today’s city design. Fifty years after that, however, Beijing failed to be included on the list of the world heritage as Cairo, Rome and Paris; and because each property is given only one chance of application for the world heritage, Beijing probably has lost the eligibility forever. For today’s Beijing has not yet been in accordance with the core provision, “the authenticity and integrity of heritage”, defined by the Convention for the world heritage.

With a history of more than 2 500 years and the unchanged city location, Suzhou has been renowned as “Oriental Venice”. However, it has missed the title of “the world heritage”. The reason is that in recent years the city has been cut into halves in the middle by a modern broad road to facilitate its transportation. This, however, has broken the ancient city structure and damaged the outlook of the water city.

Our tardy cognition has resulted in the unintentional destruction of so many precious heritage sites during the past several decades of reconstruction. According to the standard of the Convention, no more cities in China above municipal level are eligible, although China was once among the first countries that paid attention to the city planning and possessed their own features in the world. As early as the 11th century B.C., when Luoyi, the capital city of the Western Zhou Dynasty, was constructed by two noblemen, Zhou Gong and Shao Gong, they drew the

master plan of the city, which was the earliest city planning sketch in China and the world as a whole. The book, *Kao Gong Ji* (Artificer's Record), compiled towards the end of the Spring and Autumn Period in the 5th century B.C., described the fine design and construction of the city, as well as the orderliness and cultural features. Although Luoyi was all gone long, long ago, we still can perceive its influence on Beijing and Suzhou.

Luckily, two other ancient Chinese towns have been included on the World Heritage List: Ping Yao in Shanxi Province and Lijiang in Yunnan Province. Accidentally, perhaps, the former is a small town from the beginning of its setup, and the latter is located in a remote and secluded place. So they have escaped the "modernization".

Of course, we should carry out the modernization drive. We should not stop further development in order to "preserve the authenticity and integrity of heritage". It is absolutely wrong to think that preservation and development are contradictory. Not all historic relics should be preserved, of course. Our country's policy is to "preserve important historic relics", that is, to preserve the most important and worthy historic relics after authoritative evaluation. If the development of some historic cultural areas are contradictory to modernization construction, we should make a deliberative analysis and avoid modernization construction in these areas if necessary. Paris and Rome are both cities with a very long history. I have been there and find that their ancient urban areas are all well and strictly preserved. Paris and Rome have developed modern cities near their ancient cities, known as Defence and New Rome respectively. Now Ping Yao and Lijiang in China have also done the same, keeping preservation and development in good balance. It should be denounced to destroy historic relics arbitrarily under the pretext of development.

According to the State Cultural Relics Bureau, the situation of preservation of historic and cultural relics in China is very grave, Ancient space features and cultural environments of many historic cultural relics and famous historic cultural towns and cities have been destroyed. In the modernization of cities and towns, more and more cities have been becoming more and more similar in appearance, and such a single pattern is replacing ethnical cultural features of cities with historic towns, historic streets and ancient buildings as their symbols.

Fortunately, however, the overall trend of development and preservation is still full of promise. Of course, the application for "the World Heritage" (WH) undoubtedly has promoted the preservation of cultural relics greatly.

For instance, the application of Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System for "the World Heritage" urged the local government and people to protect the environment by taking the following measures: all farmers and residents in core scenic areas were resettled; buildings out of tune with their natural environment and scenery were removed; buildings not relevant to historic relics in the main and auxiliary parts of the Dujiangyan Project and in their surroundings were moved away; all exposed electric wires on the main streets were laid



underground; and any mining activities near the scenic zone were prohibited. They made a great sacrifice; invest 200 million RMB yuan in less than 5 months to dismantle 280 000m<sup>2</sup> buildings; move out, dismantle or close 61 manufacturing, mining and commercial units, 1 school and 1 097 households. They also did other work involved. All these have provided a strong guarantee for Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System to be successfully included on the World Heritage List.

In order to apply for the WH, the local government in the area of Wuyi Mountains has invested more than 100 million RMB yuan to dismantle various buildings that were harmful to the mountain scenery. In order to put the Summer Mountain Resort on the list of the World Heritage, Chengde City has also dismantled more than 10 000 new buildings. As we know, Zhouzhuang, an ancient town in the Jiangnan region (the canal-laced lower reaches of the Yangtze River) has been actively preparing to apply for the World Heritage together with Tongli and Wuzhen in the name of “Water Towns in Jiangnan”. Recently, Zhouzhuang stopped constructing a road passing through the town. Such a decision has gained good comments from the society.

Such sacrifices, on the other hand, seem too great. But the Convention has very strict criteria for “the authenticity and integrity”. It was said that there is an ancient watercourse built in Spain in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, which was highly regarded as the world heritage; however, its application for the WH was discredited just because a small section of the watercourse originally built with stones had later been changed to a concrete work. Once the application of a cultural relic for the WH is successful, it will gain huge invisible assets at once, and its status will increase greatly. Just from an economic point of view, it is worthy to apply for the WH. For example, after the ancient Ping Yao entered the list of WH, its annual tourist income has increased up to 1 million RMB yuan from 180 000 RMB yuan. What’s more, more cultural relics entering the WH list can produce incalculable value in increasing the cultural and moral quality of our nation.

Therefore, we still need to make more efforts and create better conditions to get more items of our cultural relics to enter the World Heritage List every year, and finally achieve our goal of making China a country with the maximum items of cultural relics included on the World Heritage List.

According to the provision of the Convention, the title of “the World Heritage” awarded to a cultural relic of a state party is not lifelong. The United Nations will frequently inspect the cultural relics in the WH list. If a cultural relic fails to pass such an inspection, it will be placed onto the list of “World Heritage in Danger” and the title will even be canceled. This will bring a shame to the state party. For instance, the United States and Cambodia were given a serious warning for their insufficient preservation of the Yellowstone National Park and Angkor Wat respectively.

Therefore, new problems will arise with the successful application for the WH, established